lakhs to Jute Corporation of India for their project on development of Jute Retting Tanks in various jute growing states.

(c) The objective of the project envisage development and fabrication of portable retting tanks, excavate pucca community retting tanks (PCRT's) in unproductive Govt, land and experiments for the improved retting techniques.

Under the project 10 portable retting tanks were fabricated at 5 locations, 7 PCRTs were installed at 7 locations, and industrial rettory was tried alongwith development and trial of indigenous and outside ribboners.

In value terms, each PCRTs could process 300 quintal of whole jute plant or 1500 quintal of ribbons equvivalent to 15 hectare for whole plant retting or 75 hectare of ribbon retting. Ribbon retting also improved the grade of fibre and the roots, jute sticks could also be put to use. PCRTs can also be used for fish breeding.

Increase in Area Under Sericulture 873. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase areas under sericulture in Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the states where attention has been paid to increase areas under sericulture;

(c) whether any step has been taken in that direction in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D. training, infrastructural & extension support to the secotor through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/ incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk, besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/collaboration with the States. Some of the specific projects taken up for bringing new area under sericulture are as follows:

(i) National Sericulture Project with the assistance of World Bank/Swiss Development Coorperation in seventeen states namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Orissa, Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(ii) Project for development of sericulture in eastern Uttar Pradesh (Poorvanchal project)

(ii) Action Plan for North-Eastern States

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Orissa is predominantly a tasar silk producing State. Mulberry and eri sericulture are also practised to limited extent. To supplement the efforts of the State Government in developing sericulture in the State, the following projects/schemes were implemented in Orissa State:—

(a) Intensive sericulture Development Project, Orissa.

(b) National Sericulture Project in Orissa.

(c) Identification of sericulture area by application remote sensing technique.

Import of Raw Silk

874. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Silk Industry is importing raw silk on a very large scale;

(b) if so, the figures of import of raw silk during the last three years;

(c) what are the reasons for increase in import of silk;

(d) whether Government propose to chalk out any programme for production of silk; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and by when,